

e. If a member is last employed in a sheriff, deputy sheriff, or airport firefighter position, all quarters of "eligible service," as defined in Iowa Code section 97B.49C(1)"d," shall be counted as quarters of sheriff/deputy sheriff/airport firefighter service credit.

f. A special limitation applies to hybrid refunds where the member and employer contributed at regular rates for quarters that are eligible for coverage under Iowa Code section 97B.49B or Iowa Code section 97B.49C. If a member has regular service credit and special service credit, and any part of the special service credit consists of quarters for which only regular contributions were made, such quarters will be counted as regular service quarters. However, the foregoing limitation will not apply if the member only has service credit eligible for coverage under Iowa Code section 97B.49B, or only has service credit eligible for coverage under Iowa Code section 97B.49C.

g. Except as described above, this subrule shall not be construed to require or permit service eligible for coverage under Iowa Code section 97B.49B to be treated as special service under Iowa Code section 97B.49C, or vice versa, when determining the percentage payable under this subrule.

21.8(3) Refund of retired reemployed member's contributions.

a. *Less than six months.* A retired member who returns to permanent covered employment, but who resigns within six months of the date the reemployment began, is eligible to have the member contributions for this period refunded. The contributions made by the employer will be refunded to the employer.

b. *Six months or longer.* A retired member who returns to permanent employment and subsequently terminates the member's employment may elect to receive an increased monthly allowance, or a refund of the member's accumulated contributions and, effective July 1, 1998, employer's accumulated contributions accrued during the period of reemployment. A reemployed member who elects a refund under this subrule in lieu of an increased monthly allowance shall forfeit all other rights to benefits under the system with respect to the period of reemployment. If IPERS determines that the reemployment will not increase the amount of a member's monthly benefit, a member shall only elect the refund.

21.8(4) General administrative provisions. In addition to the foregoing, IPERS shall administer a member's request for a refund as follows:

a. To obtain a refund, a member must file a refund application form, which is available from IPERS. Effective December 31, 2002, refund application forms shall only be available from IPERS.

b. The last date the member is considered an employee and the date of the last paycheck from which IPERS will be deducted must be certified by the employer on the refund application unless the member has not been paid covered wages for at least one year. The applicant's signature must be notarized. Terminated employees must keep IPERS advised in writing of any change in address so that refunds and tax documents may be delivered.

c. Unless otherwise specified by the member, the refund warrant will be mailed to the member at the address listed on the application for refund. If a member so desires, the warrant may be delivered to the member or the member's agent at IPERS' principal office. The member must show verification of identification by presenting a picture identification containing both name and social security number. If a member designates in writing an agent to pick up the refund warrant, the agent must present to IPERS both the written designation and the described picture identification.

d. No payment of any kind shall be made under this rule if the amount due is less than \$1.

e. An employee must sever all covered employment for 30 days after the date of the last paycheck containing IPERS covered wages. The employee, upon returning to covered employment, shall not file a new application, even if more than 30 days have elapsed since the date of the last paycheck containing IPERS covered wages. If the employee returns to covered employment before 30 days have passed, the refund will be revoked and the amounts paid plus interest must be repaid to the system.

21.8(5) *Emergency refunds.* Rescinded IAB 5/28/03, effective 7/2/03.

21.8(6) *Erroneously reported wages for employees not covered under IPERS.* Employers who erroneously report wages for employees that are not covered under IPERS may secure a warrant or credit, as elected by the employer, for the employer's contributions by filing an IPERS periodic wage reporting adjustments form available from IPERS. An employer that files a periodic wage reporting adjustments form requesting a warrant or credit shall receive a warrant or credit for both the employer and employee contributions made in error. The employer is responsible for returning the employee's share and for filing corrected federal and state wage reporting forms. Warrants will not be issued by IPERS if the amount due is less than \$1. In such cases, the credit will be transferred to the employer's credit memo. Under no circumstance shall the employer adjust these wages by underreporting wages on a future periodic wage reporting document. Wages shall never be reported as a negative amount. An employer that completes the employer portion of an employee's request for a refund on IPERS refund application form will not be permitted to file a periodic wage reporting adjustments form for that employee for the same period of time.

21.8(7) *Contributions paid on wages in excess of the annual covered wage maximum.* Effective for wages paid in calendar years beginning on or after January 1, 1995, IPERS shall automatically issue to each affected employer a warrant or credit, as elected by the employer, of both employer and employee contributions paid on wages in excess of the annual covered wage maximum for a calendar year. A report will be forwarded to each such employer detailing each employee for whom wages were reported in excess of the covered wage ceiling. Warrants or credits for the excess contributions made will be issued to the employers upon IPERS' receipt of certification from said employers that the overpayment report is accurate. Warrants will not be issued if the amount due is less than \$1. In such cases, the credit will be transferred to the employer's credit memo. The employer is responsible for returning the employee's share of excess contributions. Where employees have simultaneous employment with two or more employers and as a result contributions are made on wages in excess of the annual covered wage maximum, warrants or credits for the excess employer and employee contributions shall be issued to each employer in proportion to the amount of contributions paid by the employer.

21.8(8) *Termination within less than six months of the date of employment.* If an employee hired for permanent employment resigns within six months of the date of employment, the employer may file IPERS' form for reporting adjustments to receive a warrant or the credit, as elected by the employer, for both the employer's and employee's portion of the contributions. It is the responsibility of the employer to return the employee's share. "Termination within less than six months of the date of employment" means employment is terminated prior to the day before the employee's six-month anniversary date. For example, an employee hired on February 10 whose last day is August 8 would be treated as having resigned within less than six months. An employee hired on February 10 whose last day is August 9 (the day before the six-month anniversary date, August 10) would be treated as having worked six months and would be eligible for a refund.

21.8(9) *Reinstatement following an employment dispute.* If an involuntarily terminated employee is reinstated in covered employment as a remedy for an employment dispute, the member may restore membership service credit for the period covered by the refund by repaying the amount of the refund plus interest within 90 days after the date of the order or agreement requiring reinstatement. A reinstatement following an employment dispute shall not constitute a violation of Iowa Code section 97B.53(4), even if the reinstatement occurs less than 30 days after the last wages for employment are paid. Accordingly, the restoration described above or, if later, a buy-back, shall be permitted but is not required. However, if the employee is retroactively reinstated and the previously reported termination is expunged, the reemployment shall be treated as falling within the scope of Iowa Code section 97B.53(4) and a previously paid refund shall be repaid with interest.

21.8(10) *Commencement of disability benefits under Iowa Code section 97B.50(2).*

a. If a vested member terminates covered employment, takes a refund, and is subsequently approved for disability under the federal Social Security Act or the federal Railroad Retirement Act, the member may reinstate membership service credit for the period covered by the refund by paying the actuarial cost as determined by IPERS' actuary. Repayments must be made by:

(1) For members whose federal social security or railroad retirement disability payments began before July 1, 2000, the repayment must be made within 90 days after July 1, 2000;

(2) For members whose social security or railroad retirement disability payments begin on or after July 1, 2000, the repayment must be made within 90 days after the date federal social security or railroad retirement payments begin; or

(3) For any member who could have reinstated a refund under (1) or (2) above but for the fact that IPERS has not yet received a favorable determination letter from the federal Internal Revenue Service, the repayment must in any event be received within 90 days after IPERS has received such a ruling.

b. IPERS must receive a favorable determination letter from the federal Internal Revenue Service before any refund can be reinstated under this subrule.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 97B.10, 97B.46, 97B.50 and 97B.53.

581—21.9(97B) Appeals.

21.9(1) *Procedures.*

a. A party who wishes to appeal a decision by IPERS, other than a special service classification or a disability claim under Iowa Code section 97B.50A, shall, within 30 days after notification was mailed to the party's last-known address, file with IPERS a notice of appeal in writing setting forth:

- (1) The name, address, and social security number of the applicant;
- (2) A reference to the decision from which the appeal is being made;
- (3) The fact that an appeal from the decision is being made; and
- (4) The grounds upon which the appeal is based.

Upon receipt of the appeal, IPERS shall conduct an internal review of the facts and circumstances involved, in accordance with its appeal review procedure. IPERS shall issue a final agency decision which becomes final unless within 30 days of issuance the member files a notice of further appeal. Upon receipt of notification of further appeal, IPERS shall inform the department of inspections and appeals of the filing of the appeal and of relevant information pertaining to the case in question. In determining the date that an appeal or any other document is filed with IPERS or the department of inspections and appeals, the following shall apply: An appeal or any other document delivered by mail shall be deemed to be filed on the postmark date; an appeal or any other document delivered by any other means shall be deemed to be filed on the date of receipt. The department of inspections and appeals shall hold a hearing on the case and shall affirm, modify, or reverse the decision by IPERS.

b. Members shall file appeals of their special service classifications with their respective employers, using the appeal procedures of such employers. The appeal procedures for department of corrections employees shall be specified in rules adopted by the personnel division of the Iowa department of personnel. IPERS shall have no jurisdiction over special service classification appeals.

c. Appeals of disability claims under Iowa Code section 97B.50A shall be filed and processed as provided under rule 581—21.31(97B) and, upon exhaustion of that appeal process, shall revert to the procedures set forth in the remaining subrules hereunder.

21.9(2) *The determination of appeals.* Following the conclusion of a hearing of an appeal, the administrative law judge within the department of inspections and appeals shall announce the findings of fact. The decision shall be in writing, signed by the administrative law judge, and filed with IPERS, with a copy mailed to the appellant. Such decision shall be deemed final unless, within 30 days after the issuance date of such decision, further appeal is initiated. The issuance date is the date that the decision is signed by the administrative law judge.

21.9(3) *Appeal board.* A party appealing from a decision of an administrative law judge shall file a notice with the employment appeal board of the Iowa department of inspections and appeals, petitioning the appeal board for review of the administrative law judge's decision. In determining the date that a notice of appeal or any other document is filed with the employment appeal board, and subject to applicable exceptions adopted by the employment appeal board in IAC [486], the following shall apply: an appeal or any other document delivered by mail shall be deemed to be filed as of the postmark date; an appeal or any other document delivered by any other means shall be deemed to be filed as of the date that it is received.

21.9(4) *Judicial review.* The appeal board's decision shall be final and without further review 30 days after the decision is mailed to all interested parties of record unless within 20 days a petition for rehearing is filed with the appeal board or within 30 days a petition for judicial review is filed in the appropriate district court. The department, in its discretion, may also petition the district court for judicial review of questions of law involving any of its decisions. Action brought by the department for judicial review of its decisions shall be brought in the district court of Polk County, Iowa.

21.9(5) *Contested case procedure.* Appeals of decisions by IPERS that are heard by the department of inspections and appeals shall be conducted pursuant to the rules governing contested case hearings adopted by the department of inspections and appeals under 481—Chapter 10.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 97B.16, 97B.20, 97B.20A, 97B.20B, 97B.27, 97B.29 and 97B.50A.

581—21.10(97B) Beneficiaries.

21.10(1) *Designation of beneficiaries.* To designate a beneficiary, the member must complete an IPERS designation of beneficiary form, which must be filed with IPERS. The designation of a beneficiary by a retiring member on the application for monthly benefits is accepted by IPERS in lieu of a completed designation form. IPERS may consider as valid a designation of beneficiary form filed with the member's employer prior to the death of the member, even if that form was not forwarded to IPERS prior to the member's death. If a retired member is reemployed in covered employment, the most recently filed beneficiary form shall govern the payment of all death benefits for all periods of employment. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, a reemployed IPERS Option 4 retiree may name someone other than the member's contingent annuitant as beneficiary, but only for death benefits accrued during the period of reemployment and only if the contingent annuitant has died or has been divorced from the member. If a reemployed IPERS Option 4 retiree dies without filing a new beneficiary form, the death benefits accrued for the period of reemployment shall be paid to the member's contingent annuitant, unless the contingent annuitant has died or been divorced from the member. If the contingent annuitant has been divorced from the member, any portion of the death benefits awarded in a qualified domestic relations order (QDRO) shall be paid to the contingent annuitant as alternate payee, and the remainder of the death benefits shall be paid to the member's estate, or the member's heirs if no estate is probated.

21.10(2) *Change of beneficiary.* The beneficiary may be changed by the member by filing a new designation of beneficiary form with IPERS. The latest dated designation of beneficiary form on file shall determine the identity of the beneficiary. Payment of a refund to a terminated member cancels the designation of beneficiary on file with IPERS.

21.10(3) Payments to a beneficiary. Before death benefit payments can be made, application in writing must be submitted to IPERS with a copy of the member's death certificate, together with information establishing the claimant's right to payment. A named beneficiary must complete IPERS' application for death benefits based on the deceased member's account.

21.10(4) Where the designated beneficiary is an estate, trust, church, charity or other like organization, payment of benefits shall be made in a lump sum only.

21.10(5) Rescinded IAB 7/5/95, effective 8/9/95.

21.10(6) Where multiple beneficiaries have been designated by the member, payment, including the payment of the remainder of a series of guaranteed annuity payments, shall be made in a lump sum only. The lump sum payment shall be paid to the multiple beneficiaries in equal shares unless a different proportion is stipulated.

21.10(7) Payment of the death benefit when no designation of beneficiary or an invalid designation of beneficiary is on file with IPERS shall be made in one of the following ways:

a. Where the estate is open, payment shall be made to the administrator or executor.
b. Where no estate is probated or the estate is closed prior to the filing with IPERS of an application for death benefits, payment will be made to the surviving spouse. The following documents shall be presented as supporting evidence:

- (1) Copy of the will, if any;
- (2) Copy of any letters of appointment; and
- (3) Copy of the court order closing the estate and discharging the executor or administrator.

c. Where no estate is probated or the estate is closed prior to filing with IPERS and there is no surviving spouse, payment will be made to the heirs-at-law as determined by the intestacy laws of the state of Iowa.

d. Where a trustee has been named as designated beneficiary and is not willing to accept the death benefit or otherwise serve as trustee, IPERS may, but is not required to, apply to the applicable district court for an order to distribute the funds to the clerk of court on behalf of the beneficiaries of the member's trust. Upon the issuance of an order and the giving of such notice as the court prescribes, IPERS may deposit the death benefit with the clerk of court for distribution. IPERS shall be discharged from all liability upon deposit with the clerk of court.

21.10(8) Where the member dies prior to the first month of entitlement, the death benefit shall include the accumulated contributions of the member plus the product of an amount equal to the highest year of covered wages of the deceased member and the number of years of membership service divided by the "applicable denominator," as provided in Iowa Code section 97B.52(1). The amount payable shall not be less than the amount that would have been payable on the death of the member on June 30, 1984. The calculation of the highest year of covered wages shall use the highest calendar year of covered wages reported to IPERS.

When a member who has filed an application for retirement benefits and has survived into the first month of entitlement dies prior to the issuance of the first benefit check, IPERS will pay the death benefit allowed under the retirement option elected pursuant to section 97B.48(1) or 97B.51.

21.10(9) Waiver of beneficiary rights. A named beneficiary of a deceased member may waive current and future rights to payments to which the beneficiary would have been entitled. The waiver of the rights shall occur prior to the receipt of a payment from IPERS to the beneficiary. The waiver of rights shall be binding and will be executed on a form provided by IPERS. The waiver of rights may be general, in which case payment shall be divided equally among all remaining designated beneficiaries, or to the member's estate if there are none. The waiver of rights may also expressly be made in favor of one or more of the member's designated beneficiaries or the member's estate. If the waiver of rights operates in favor of the member's estate and no estate is probated or claim made, or if the executor or administrator expressly waives payment to the estate, payment shall be paid to the member's surviving spouse unless there is no surviving spouse or the surviving spouse has waived the surviving spouse's rights. In that case, payment shall be made to the member's heirs excluding any person who waived the right to payment. Any waiver filed by an executor, administrator, or other fiduciary must be accompanied by a release acceptable to IPERS indemnifying IPERS from all liability to beneficiaries, heirs, or other claimants for any waiver executed by an executor, administrator, or other fiduciary.

21.10(10) Payment may be made to a conservator if the beneficiary is under the age of 18 and the total dollar amount to be paid by IPERS to a single beneficiary is \$10,000 or more. Payment may be made to a custodian if the total dollar amount to be paid by IPERS to a single beneficiary is less than \$10,000.

21.10(11) For members who die prior to January 1, 1999, when a member on benefits returns to covered employment (or retires but remains in covered employment if aged 70 or older) and dies before applying for a recomputation or recalculation/recomputation of benefits, the preretirement death benefit formula in effect prior to the enactment of 2000 Iowa Acts, chapter 1077, shall be applied to the wages and years of service reported after benefits began.

21.10(12) Death benefits shall not exceed the maximum amount possible under the Internal Revenue Code.

21.10(13) IPERS will apply the provisions of the Uniform Simultaneous Death Act, Iowa Code sections 633.523 et seq., in determining the proper beneficiaries of death benefits in applicable cases.

21.10(14) IPERS will apply the provisions of the Felonious Death Act, Iowa Code sections 633.535 et seq., in determining the proper beneficiaries of death benefits in applicable cases.

21.10(15) A completed application must be filed with the department no later than five years after the date of the member's death or the total sum is forfeited. A beneficiary's right to receive a death benefit beyond the five-year limitation shall be extended to the extent permitted under Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(9) and the applicable treasury regulations. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the maximum claims period shall not exceed the period required under Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(9), which may be less than five years for death benefits payable under benefit options described in Iowa Code sections 97B.49A to 97B.49I and 97B.51(6) and for members who die after their required beginning date. The claims period for all cases in which the member's death occurs during the same calendar year in which a claim must be filed under this subrule shall end April 1 of the year following the year of the member's death.

21.10(16) Effective July 1, 1998, a member's beneficiary or heir may file a claim for previously forfeited death benefits. Interest for periods prior to the date of the claim will only be credited through the quarter that the death benefit was required to be forfeited by law. For claims filed prior to July 1, 1998, interest for the period following the quarter of forfeiture will accrue beginning with the third quarter of 1998. For claims filed on or after July 1, 1998, interest for the period following the quarter of forfeiture will accrue beginning with the quarter that the claim is received by IPERS. For death benefits required to be forfeited in order to satisfy Section 401(a)(9) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, in no event will the forfeiture date precede January 1, 1988. IPERS shall not be liable for any excise taxes imposed by the Internal Revenue Service on reinstated death benefits.

21.10(17) Interest is only accrued if the member dies before the member's retirement first month of entitlement (FME) or, for a retired reemployed member, before the member's reemployment FME, and is only accrued with respect to the retired or retired reemployed member's accumulated contributions account.

21.10(18) Death benefits under Iowa Code section 97B.52(1).**a.** Definitions.

"Accrued benefit" means the monthly amount that would have been payable to the deceased member under IPERS' Option 2 at the member's earliest normal retirement age, based on the member's covered wages and service credits at the date of death, and the retirement benefit formula in effect in the month following the date of death. If a deceased member's wage record consists of a combination of regular and special service credits, the deceased member's earliest normal retirement age shall be determined under the regular or special service benefit formula under which the member accrued the majority of the value of the member's accrued retirement benefit.

"Beneficiary(ies)" shall, unless the context indicates otherwise, refer to both window period beneficiaries and post-window period beneficiaries.

"Implementation date" means January 1, 2001.

"Nearest age" means a member's or beneficiary's age expressed in whole years, after rounding for partial years of age. Ages shall be rounded down to the nearest whole year if less than six complete months have passed following the month of the member's or beneficiary's last birthday, and shall be rounded up if six complete months or more have passed following the month of the member's or beneficiary's last birthday.

"Post-window period beneficiary" means a beneficiary of a member who dies before the member's first month of entitlement and on or after January 1, 2001.

"Window period beneficiary" means a beneficiary of a member who dies before the member's first month of entitlement during the period January 1, 1999, through December 31, 2000.

b. Any window period beneficiary or post-window period beneficiary may elect to receive the lump sum amount available under Iowa Code section 97B.52(1). Sole beneficiaries may elect, in lieu of the foregoing lump sum amount, to receive a single life annuity that is the actuarial equivalent of such lump sum amount.

A window period beneficiary must repay any prior preretirement death benefit received as follows:

(1) If a window period beneficiary wishes to receive the larger lump sum amount, if any, the system shall pay the difference between the prior death benefit lump sum amount and the new death benefit lump sum amount.

(2) If a sole window period beneficiary wishes to receive a single life annuity under Iowa Code section 97B.52(1), the sole window period beneficiary may either:

1. Annuitize the difference between the previously paid lump sum amount and the new larger lump sum amount, if any; or

2. Annuitize the full amount of the largest of the lump sum amounts available under the revised statute, but must repay the full amount of the previously paid lump sum amount.

(3) To the extent possible, repayment costs shall be recovered from retroactive monthly payments, if any, and the balance shall be offset against current and future monthly payments until the system is repaid in full.

c. A claim for a single life annuity under this subrule must be filed as follows:

(1) A sole window period beneficiary must file a claim for a single life annuity within 12 months of the implementation date.

(2) A sole post-window period beneficiary must file a claim for a single life annuity within 12 months of the member's death.

(3) A beneficiary who is a surviving spouse must file a claim for a single life annuity within the period specified in subparagraph (1) or (2), as applicable, or by the date that the member would have attained the age of 70 ², whichever period is longer.

d. Elections to receive the lump sum amount or single life annuity available under Iowa Code section 97B.52(1) and this subrule shall be irrevocable once the first payment is made. Election shall be irrevocable as of the date the first paycheck is issued, or would have been issued but for the fact that the payment is being offset against a prior preretirement death benefit payment.

e. No further benefits will be payable following the death of any beneficiary who qualifies and elects to receive the single life annuity provided under this subrule.

f. The provisions of this subrule shall not apply to members who die before January 1, 1999.

g. Procedures and assumptions to be used in calculating the lump sum present value of a member's accrued benefit:

(1) IPERS shall calculate a member's retirement benefit at earliest normal retirement age under IPERS' Option 2, based on the member's covered wages and service credits at the date of death, and the retirement benefit formula in effect in the month following the date of death.

(2) For purposes of determining the "member date of death annuity factor" under the conversion tables supplied by IPERS' actuary, IPERS shall assume that "age" means the member's nearest age at the member's date of death.

(3) For purposes of determining the "member unreduced retirement annuity factor" under the conversion tables supplied by IPERS' actuary, IPERS shall assume that "age" means the member's nearest age at the member's earliest normal retirement date. If a member had already attained the member's earliest normal retirement date, IPERS shall assume that "age" means the member's nearest age at the date of death.

h. Procedures and assumptions for converting the lump sum present value of a deceased member's preretirement death benefit to a single life annuity:

(1) For purposes of determining the "age of beneficiary annuity factor" under the conversion tables supplied by IPERS' actuary, IPERS shall assume that "age" means the beneficiary's nearest age as of the beneficiary's first month of entitlement.

(2) A beneficiary's first month of entitlement is the month after the date of the member's death, but is subject to the limit on retroactive payments described in paragraph "j" below.

i. Eligibility for FED payments. Any sole beneficiary who is eligible for and elects to receive a single life annuity under this subrule shall also qualify for the dividend payments authorized under rule 581—21.30(97B), subject to the requirements of that rule.

j. Retroactive payments. Retroactive payments of monthly annuity amounts to sole beneficiaries who elect the single life annuity shall be payable as follows:

(1) Window period beneficiaries shall receive retroactive payments, not to exceed three years of such payments, beginning with the month following the month of the member's death, provided that the beneficiary applies for the single life annuity within the time period specified in 21.10(18)"c."

(2) Post-window period beneficiaries may receive no more than six months of retroactive payments, provided that the beneficiary applies for the single life annuity within the period specified in 21.10(18)"c."

k. Retired reemployed members and aged 70 members who retire without terminating employment. Preretirement death benefits for retired reemployed members and aged 70 members who retire without terminating employment shall be calculated as follows:

(1) For beneficiaries of such members who elected IPERS' Option 4 or 6 at retirement, IPERS shall recompute (for retired reemployed members) or recalculate/recompute (for aged 70 members who retired without terminating employment) the member's monthly benefits as though the member had elected to terminate employment as of the date of death, to have the member's benefits adjusted for post-retirement wages, and then lived into the recomputation or recalculation/recomputation (as applicable) first month of entitlement.

(2) The recomputations provided under subparagraph (1) shall apply only to beneficiaries of members who elected IPERS' Option 4 or 6, where the member's monthly benefit would have been increased by the period of reemployment, and is subject to the limitations of Iowa Code sections 97B.48A, 97B.49A, 97B.49B, 97B.49C, 97B.49D, and 97B.49G. The recalculation/recomputations provided under subparagraph (1) shall apply only to beneficiaries of members who elected IPERS' Option 4 or 6, where the member's monthly benefit would have been increased by the period of employment after the initial retirement, and is subject to the limitations of Iowa Code sections 97B.49A, 97B.49B, 97B.49C, 97B.49D, and 97B.49G. In all other cases, preretirement death benefits under this subparagraph shall be equal to the lump sum amount equal to the accumulated employee and accumulated employer contributions.

(3) Beneficiaries of members who had elected IPERS' Option 4 or 6 may also elect to receive the accumulated employer and accumulated employee contributions described in the preceding sentence, in lieu of the increased monthly annuity amount.

(4) Notwithstanding subparagraph (2) above, if the member elected IPERS' Option 5 at retirement, the lump sum amount payable under this paragraph shall be the greater of the applicable commuted lump sum or the accumulated employee and accumulated employer contributions.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 97B.1A(8), 97B.1A(17), 97B.34, 97B.34A, 97B.44 and 97B.52 and 2000 Iowa Acts, chapter 1077, section 75.

581—21.11(97B) Application for benefits.

21.11(1) Form used. It is the responsibility of the member to notify IPERS of the intention to retire. This should be done 60 days before the expected retirement date. The application for monthly retirement benefits is obtainable from IPERS, 7401 Register Drive, P.O. Box 9117, Des Moines, Iowa 50306-9117. The printed application form shall be completed by each member applying for benefits and shall be mailed or brought in person to IPERS. Option choice and date of retirement shall be clearly stated on the application form and all questions on the form shall be answered in full. If an optional allowance is chosen by the member in accordance with Iowa Code section 97B.48(1) or 97B.51, the election becomes binding when the first retirement allowance is paid. A retirement application is deemed to be valid and binding when the first payment is paid. Members may not cancel their applications, change their option choice, or change an IPERS option containing contingent annuitant benefits after that date.

21.11(2) Proof required in connection with application. Proof of date of birth to be submitted with an application for benefits shall be in the form of a birth certificate or an infant baptismal certificate. If these records do not exist, the applicant shall submit two other documents or records which will verify the day, month and year of birth. A photographic identification record may be accepted even if now expired unless the passage of time has made it impossible to determine if the photographic identification record is that of the applicant. The following records or documents are among those deemed acceptable to IPERS as proof of date of birth:

- a.* United States census record;
- b.* Military record or identification card;
- c.* Naturalization record;
- d.* A marriage license showing age of applicant in years, months and days on date of issuance;
- e.* A life insurance policy;
- f.* Records in a school's administrative office;

- g.* An official form from the United States Immigration Service, such as the “green card,” containing such information;
- h.* Driver’s license or Iowa nondriver identification card;
- i.* Adoption papers;
- j.* A family Bible record. A photostatic copy will be accepted with certification by a notary that the record appears to be genuine; or
- k.* Any other document or record ten or more years old, or certification from the custodian of such records which verifies the day, month, and year of birth.

If the member, the member’s representative, or the member’s beneficiary is unable or unwilling to provide proof of birth, or in the case of death, proof of death, IPERS may rely on such resources as it has available, including but not limited to records from the Social Security Administration, Iowa division of records and statistics, IPERS’ own internal records, or reports derived from other public records, and other departmental or governmental records to which IPERS may have access.

Under subrule 21.11(6), IPERS is required to begin making payments to a member or beneficiary who has reached the required beginning date specified by Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(9). In order to begin making such payments and to protect IPERS’ status as a plan qualified under Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a), IPERS may rely on its internal records with regard to date of birth, if the member or beneficiary is unable or unwilling to provide the proofs required by this subrule within 30 days after written notification of IPERS’ intent to begin mandatory payments.

21.11(3) Retirement benefits and the age reduction factor.

- a.* A member shall be eligible for monthly retirement benefits with no age reduction effective with the first of the month in which the member becomes the age of 65, if otherwise eligible.
- b.* Effective July 1, 1998, a member shall be eligible for full monthly retirement benefits with no age reduction effective with the first of the month in which the member becomes the age of 62, if the member has 20 full years of service and is otherwise eligible.
- c.* Effective July 1, 1997, a member shall be eligible to receive monthly retirement benefits with no age reduction effective the first of the month in which the member’s age on the last birthday and the member’s years of service equal or exceed 88, provided that the member is at least the age of 55.

These benefits are computed in accordance with Iowa Code sections 97B.49A to 97B.49I.

21.11(4) A member shall be eligible to receive monthly retirement benefits effective with the first day of the month in which the member becomes the age of 70, even though the member continues to be employed.

21.11(5) A member shall be eligible to receive benefits for early retirement effective with the first of the month in which the member attains the age of 55 or the first of any month after attaining the age of 55 before the member’s normal retirement date, provided the date is after the last day of service.